

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/788,973

Examiner

MAHMOUD FATAHI YAR

Applicant(s)

CHYC ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/25/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 6-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/7/08.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Richard Hjerpe/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2629

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Kelly on April 7, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) An input generating device positioned at a side of an electronic device comprising:

a ~~planar~~ core formed to have two parallel planar surfaces, said core including a peripheral edge around the entirety of said core; and

a flexible track slidably engaged with the core for movement only in a first direction and ~~an~~ a second direction, where said second direction is opposite said first direction;

said core including a channel formed in said peripheral edge, such that said flexible track is slidably engaged with said core within said channel;

whereby a first input is generated by sliding movement of the flexible track relative to the core in said first direction.

2. (previously amended) An input generating device as recited in claim 1 further comprising a first input detection means for detecting the first input generated by said sliding movement of the flexible track.

Art Unit: 2629

3. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 2 wherein said input detection means is a turns encoder which detects sliding movement of the track.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) An input generating device as recited in claim 5 ~~1~~ wherein said ~~core is~~ two parallel planar surfaces are of a semi circular shape.

7. (previously amended) An input generating device as recited in claim 1 wherein said flexible track is a single flexible piece, extending around said peripheral edge.

8. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 1 wherein said flexible track comprises a plurality of track segments attached to each other in series.

9. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 1, wherein said input generating device further comprises a depressible component, whereby a second input is generated by depression of said depressible component.

10. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 9 further comprising a second input detection means for detecting the second input.

11. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 10 wherein said second input detection means is a tactile contact switch, which detects an input when the depressible component is depressed.

12. (original) A input generating device as recited in claim 11 wherein said tactile contact switch provides a click like tactile feedback to the user when depressed.

13. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 11 wherein said core is mounted in sliding engagement with a carriage, said depressible component being positioned such that urging the core to slide along the carriage, causes the core to engage and depress the depressible component, and activate the tactile contact switch.

Art Unit: 2629

14. (currently amended) An input generating device for use in a hand held electronic device and positioned at a side of a housing thereof, said input generating device comprising:

a planar core formed to have two parallel planar surfaces and a peripheral edge extending around said core, said core mounted within said housing,

a flexible track slidably engaged with the core for movement only in a first direction and an a second direction, where said second direction is opposite said first direction,

said core including a channel formed in said peripheral edge, such that said flexible track slidably engages with said core within said channel;

whereby a first input is generated by sliding movement of the flexible track relative to the core in said first direction,

a portion of the core and track protruding outside said housing allowing access thereto by a user,

the input generating device including a first input detection component for receiving said first input generated by said sliding movement of the track.

15. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 14 wherein said first input detection component is a turns encoder, which senses sliding movement of the track relative to the core.

16. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 14 further comprising:

a depressible component, depressibly mounted to the housing, generating a second input when said depressible component is depressed; and

a second input detection component for detecting said second input.

Art Unit: 2629

17. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 16 wherein said depressible component is a spring loaded button, and said second input detection component is a tactile contact switch.

18. (original) An input generating device as recited in claim 17 wherein said core is mounted in sliding engagement with a carriage, said depressible component being positioned such that urging the core to slide along the carriage, causes the core to engage and depress the spring loaded button and activate the tactile contact switch.

19. (currently amended) An input generating device as recited in claim 18 wherein:

said core is formed in such that said parallel planar surfaces have a semicircular shape,

~~forming a peripheral edge extending around said core,~~

~~said track slidably engaged with said peripheral side edge, and~~

a curved portion of said peripheral edge ~~extending~~ extends outwardly from said housing.

20. (currently amended) An input generating device as recited in claim 16 wherein said hand held electronic device [[,]] further comprises a display screen, said first and second input detection means being coupled to the display screen by a processor, said first input and said second inputs input directing a navigational function and selection function on said display screen, respectively.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Fatahiyar whose telephone number is (571)272-7688. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

Art Unit: 2629

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Mike Fatahiyar/

Examiner, Art Unit 2629

April 20, 2008

/Richard Hjerpe/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629